

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1947

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: XA, CU, UR, MPOL
SUBJECT: GUYANESE REACTION TO SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA

REF: STATE 148740

1. GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA SEEMS UNDISMAYED BY CUBAN AND RUSSIAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA, PERCEIVING IT AS ANTI-IMPERIALIST AND ANTI-COLONIALIST IN NATURE AND GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF BLACK LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WITH WHICH THE BURNHAM GOVERNMENT CAN AND DOES IDENTIFY. THE ONE SLIGHT RESERVATION GOG DOES HAVE INVOLVES THE CUBAN/SOVIET EFFORT IN ETHIOPIA, NOT BECAUSE OF ANY DISAGREEMENT WITH ITS AIMS, BUT RATHER BECAUSE THAT ADVENTURE HAS DRAWN CRITICISM FROM MODERATES WITHIN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) AND JEOPARDIZES ITS COHESION. HAVING INVESTED SO HEAVILY IN THE NAM SINCE 1972, THE GOG IS RENDERED UNEASY BY ANY DEVELOPMENT WHICH APPEARS TO THREATEN THAT INVESTMENT.

2. THE GOG'S PUBLIC POSITION ON BLOC INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA HAS NOT BEEN ARTICULATED IN ANY COMPREHENSIVE WAY BY ANY GOG SPOKESMAN IN RECENT MONTHS. HOWEVER, GUYANA'S FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER SHRIDATH RAMPHAL (NOW SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH) ADDRESSED THE
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SUBJECT IN A STATEMENT IN LONDON ON JUNE 7, EXPRESSING A VIEW WHICH PRIMIN BURNHAM AND THE GOG WOULD PROBABLY SUBSCRIBE TO. ADMITTING THAT AFRICA WAS CONCERNED ABOUT INTERVENTION FROM ANY SOURCE, RAMPHAL'S STATEMENT WENT ON TO SAY, "BUT AFRICA IS IMPATIENT, AND UNDERSTANDABLY SO, AFTER SOME THIRTY-TWO YEARS OF DENIAL OF NAMIBIA'S INDEPENDENCE AND AFTER MORE THAN THIRTEEN

YEARS OF AN ILLEGAL MINORITY REGIME IN SALISBURY. NOT
SURPRISINGLY, THE MOOD IN LARGE PARTS OF AFRICA TODAY IS
TO SEE INTERVENTION AS HAVING AN ACCEPTABLE FACE WHEN
IT HAS TO CONFRONT THE PERSISTENT EVIL OF THAT STATUS
QUO. FOR WESTERN GOVERNMENTS TO PROCEED ON ANY OTHER
ASSUMPTION IS TO ACT ON DANGEROUSLY FALSE PREMISES."
BURKE

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Message Attributes

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